

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00177 220355Z

73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /056 W

----- 118296

R 220332Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9126

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL WELLINGTON 0177

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON

1. SUMMARY- DURING JAN 22 MEETING LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION ROBERT MULDOON EXUDED CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE
NATIONAL PARTY'S CHANCES TO WIN A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY
IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS. MULDOON STRONGLY DISCOUNTED THE
CONTINUING RUMORS OF AN EARLY SNAP ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON ROB MULDOON TO PRESENT HIM WITH A LETTER
INVITING THE NATIONAL PARTY TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR
AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT TO THE UNITED STATES.
DURING A RELAXED HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WE DISCUSSED
NEW ZEALAND POLITICS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF MULDOON'S
SPENDING SOME TIME IN THE US ON HIS RETURN FROM A
FEBRUARY-MARCH TRIP TO EUROPE. HIS PRESENT SCHEDULE
ONLY CALLS FOR HIM TO OVERNIGHT IN LOS ANGELES MARCH
14-15. MULDOON INDICATED THAT ANY INCREASE IN HIS TIME
IN THE US WOULD DEPEND ON THE TIMING OF THE RECONVENING
OF PARLIAMENT. IF TIME ALLOWS, HOWEVER, HE WILL ATTEMPT
TO EXPAND HIS VISIT. HE RESPONDED EHTHUSIASTICALLY TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WELLIN 00177 220355Z

MY SUGGESTION THAT HE SPEND SOME TIME AT CINCPAC.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT PRIME MINISTER ROWLING MIGHT CALL A SNAP ELECTION, MULDOON SAID HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF THIS HAPPENING BEFORE MAY. HE CITED ROWLING'S TRIPS TO EUROPE (EARLY FEBRUARY TO EARLY MARCH) AND TO WASHINGTON AND THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (LATE APRIL TO EARLY MAY) AS MILITATING STRONGLY AGAINST AN ELECTION CALL BEFORE MAY. IN ADDITION, HE SAID ROWLING WAS A CAUTIOUS INDIVIDUAL NOT LIKELY TO ROCK THE ELECTORAL BOAT. IF HE HAD INTENDED TO CALL AN EARLY ELECTION THE TIME TO DO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LAST NOVEMBER WHEN A CERTAIN KIRK SYMPATHY VOTE WAS STILL TO BE HAD AND WHEN THERE WERE FEW CRACKS IN THE ECONOMY. MULDOON CONCEDED THAT IF ROWLING HAD CALLED AN ELECTION IN NOVEMBER LABOUR WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN RETURNED FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS.

4. MULDOON IS CONFIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S CHANCES OF WINNING THE NEXT ELECTION. WHILE HE IS AWARE THAT A GREAT DEAL CAN HAPPEN BETWEEN NOW AND THE ELECTIONS HE FEELS THAT EVERYTHING IS RUNNING IN NATIONAL'S FAVOR AT THE MOMENT. CONTINUED INFLATION COUPLED WITH A SAGGING ECONOMY ARE THE MAIN FACTORS IN HIS EQUATION. MULDOON EXPECTS A REASONABLY QUIET CAMPAIGN WITH BOTH HIMSELF AND ROWLING (AS FORMER FINANCE MNISTERS) TRYING TO SELL THEIR IDEAS ON HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NEW ZEALAND FACES.

5. COMMENT - I AGREE WITH MULDOON'S ASSESSMENT WITH REGARD TO EARLY ELECTIONS AND DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN ON THAT FRONT BEFORE MAY OR JUNE, IF THEN.

WHETHER NATIONAL WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME LABOUR'S 23 SEAT MAJORITY (OUT OF 87) IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT AT THIS TIME. CERTAINLY, THE TIDE APPEARS TO BE RUNNING IN NATIONAL'S FAVOR AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT MULDOON WILL BE PRIME MINISTER BY THE END OF THE YEAR IS VERY REAL. WITH THAT INMIND WE WILL BE KEEPING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIS OFFICE DURING HIS UPCOMING TRIP IN AN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WELLIN 00177 220355Z

EFFORT TO ARRANGE A LONGER STAY IN THE US. IF MULDOON IS ABLE TO EXTEND HIS TIME IN THE US IT IS DOUBTFUL HE WILL BE ABLE TO GET TO WASHINGTON. THE MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITY IS THAT HE SPEND HIS TIME IN LOS ANGELES AND HONOLULU WHERE BRIEFINGS BY AND MEETINGS WITH CINCPAC PERSONNEL WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN ORDER.
SELDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN00177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750023-0886
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayus.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON
TAGS: PINT, NZ, US, (MULDOON, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006